

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-15 are pending in the application. In response to the Office Action (Paper No. 6), Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the claims to improve clarity.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to hold in abeyance the rewriting of this claim until the Examiner has had the opportunity to reconsider the rejected parent claims in light of the arguments presented below in support of the Applicant's traverse of the rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colgan et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,483,498; hereafter "Colgan") in view of Kurihara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,501,529; hereafter "Kurihara"), Akimoto et al. (JP 3-11514; hereafter "Akimoto"), Inou (U.S. Patent No. 5,774,107) and Sato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,337; hereafter "Sato"). Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colgan in view of Kurihara, Akimoto, Inou, Sato and Kubo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,337; hereafter "Kubo"). Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colgan in view of Kurihara, Akimoto, Inou, Sato and Okuda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,963,280; hereafter "Okuda"). Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colgan in view of Kurihara, Akimoto, Inou, Sato and Takatori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,504,592; hereafter "Takatori"). Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Colgan in view of Kurihara, Akimoto, Inou, Sato and Yamagata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,024; hereafter Yamagata).

Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention would not have been rendered obvious because cited references, alone or combined, not a touch panel disposed on a back side, opposite to a visual side, of a flexible liquid-crystal display panel.

With regards to claim 1 (the only independent claim), the Examiner maintains Colgan discloses all of the features of the claimed invention except for a touch panel disposed on a back side, opposite to a visual side, of a liquid-crystal display panel, which the Examiner asserts is disclosed by Kurihara and Akihara. In particular, the Examiner asserts that Kurihara discloses “a liquid crystal display element integrated with a touch sensor where the touch sensor is on the opposite side of the LCD panel. However, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s position since the Kurihara discloses that pairs of LCD electrodes and pairs of touch electrodes are alternately disposed on a first substrate and a second substrate such that LCD panel and touch panel are integrated together (see Figures 3 and 4). Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that it is quite clear that Colgan does not teach or suggest a touch panel disposed on a back side, opposite to a visual side, of a liquid-crystal display panel, as claimed.

The Examiner further asserts that Akihara discloses “touch panels on both sides of the LCD panel.” However, Akihara does not teach or suggest a touch panel disposed on a back side, opposite to a visual side, of the liquid-crystal display panel. Rather, Figure 1 discloses a color tone correcting liquid crystal panel 22 having a pair of touch switch electrodes 33 disposed on a visual side of a character display liquid crystal panel 21. Figure 2 discloses is a touch switch

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panel provided on the visual side separately from the liquid crystal display panel. In the display device shown in Figure 3, a touch switch panel provided integrally in the liquid crystal display panel 1. Lastly, in the display device shown in Figure 4, a color tone correcting liquid crystal panel 22 is disposed on a visual side of liquid crystal display panel.

Similarly, Applicant respectfully submits that it is quite clear the other cited references do not teach or suggest a touch panel disposed on a back side, opposite to a visual side, of a liquid-crystal display panel, as claimed.

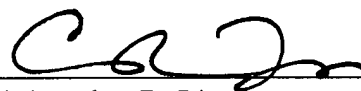
Accordingly, independent claim 1, as well as dependent claims 2-15, should be allowable because the applied references, alone or combined, do not teach or suggest all of the features of the claims.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Date: May 5, 2003

Attorney Docket No.: Q64129